

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A method of training children to avoid hazards, comprising:
 - a) teaching a group of children sounds of hazardous conditions by playing a recording having a series of sound segments wherein each sound segment has the sounds of a distinct hazardous condition and each sound segment is separated from proceeding and following sound segments by a time interval;
 - b) while playing the recording having the children traverse an obstacle course of sufficient length to allow the children an opportunity to run a reasonable distance before and prior to playing each sound track segment;
 - c) upon each sound segment playing, having the children perform hazard avoidance responses designed specifically for the hazardous condition of that sound segment; and
 - d) repeating a) - d) until the children have developed appropriate hazard avoidance responses specific to sound patterns indicative of specific hazardous conditions.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein teaching the children includes teaching the children the names of the hazardous conditions in conjunction with the children hearing the sounds of the hazardous conditions.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the hazardous sounds of the hazardous conditions comprise:
 - breaking or broken glass;
 - a braking automobile;
 - a panic stricken crowd;
 - a vicious dog barking;
 - police/fire vehicles in motion;
 - a smoke detector alarm;
 - a train in motion, and
 - a friendly voice from a stranger asking for help.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the recording has a first sound track for teaching the children the names of the sounds indicative of hazardous conditions wherein the time intervals between the segments is of a first duration and wherein the sound recording has a second track with time intervals of a duration longer than the first duration.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the time intervals of the first track are about 5 seconds and the time intervals of the second track are about 10 seconds.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein there are additional sound tracks having the hazardous sound segments played in orders which differ from one another.

7. The method of claim 2, further including leading the children through the obstacle course for at least one cycle with an instructor who demonstrates effective active responses to each hazardous condition in response to hearing sounds indicative of the hazard.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein the second track has a final sound segment in which the children each dial an emergency number as part of their hazard avoidance response.

9. Apparatus for child safety training, comprising:
an obstacle course for traversal by children, the obstacle course having obstacles thereon at spaced locations for children to negotiate as they proceed along the course;
a sound recording associated with the obstacle course, the sound recording having sound segments each of which is indicative of a hazardous condition, wherein each segment is separated from prior and subsequent segments by time intervals, the time intervals being of a duration sufficient for a child to advance over a portion of the course, and
instructions associated with each hazardous condition for informing a child as to an effective response to the hazardous condition.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the sound recording includes first and second training tracks, the first training track training children to identify sounds of the hazardous conditions by name and the second training track being used in conjunction with the obstacle course and having only sounds indicative of specific hazards, the specific hazards being spaced by time intervals on the second sound track.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the hazardous conditions on the sound recording include sounds comprising:

- breaking or broken glass;
- braking automobile;
- panic stricken crowd;
- vicious dog barking;
- police/fire vehicles in motion;
- smoke detector alarm;
- a train in motion, and
- a friendly voice from stranger asking for help.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the time intervals between segments of the first training track are about 5 seconds.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the time intervals between segments of the second training track are about 10 seconds.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the time intervals between segments of the first training track are about 5 seconds.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the time intervals between segments of the second training track are about 10 seconds.

16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the time intervals between segments of the second training track are about 10 seconds.

17. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each of the tracks includes the sound of a ringing bell to initiate teaching of responses to the sounds indicative of hazardous conditions.

18. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein a telephone is part of or adjacent to the obstacle course for the children to telephone an emergency number.